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**VIOLENT CRIME IMPACT TEAM
MAKES FIRST ARREST FOR FIREARMS CHARGES**

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor Scott, Fresno Chief of Police Jerry Dyer, Fresno County District Attorney Elizabeth Egan, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Paul Vido announced today that ATF arrested and charged MATTHEW CASTILLO, age 27, of Fresno, for unlawfully possessing two handguns.

This case was the result of a cooperative effort by the Fresno Police Department, the Fresno District Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The arrest was a direct result of the federal government's Violent Crime Impact Team ("VCIT") program which focuses federal resources on specific high-crime areas of Fresno.

A complaint charging Castillo with possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking and possession of a firearm by a controlled substance user, alleges that the arrest stemmed from a report of a sexual assault to which officers of the Fresno Police Department and an ATF agent responded. The complaint alleges that Matthew Castillo was charged with possessing a .40 caliber Glock handgun, a .38 caliber derringer, and ammunition. The complaint further alleges that the firearms were located in a safe containing methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, scales, and documentation identifying Matthew Castillo.

If convicted of the charges as alleged in the complaint, Castillo faces up to 15 years in prison and a fine up to \$500,000.

The charges in the complaint are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

United States Attorney Scott praised the work of the agents and officers involved in this case stating, “We are dedicated to keeping our communities safe from illegal firearms. That’s why we believe so strongly in our Violent Crime Impact Team initiative. Federal and local agents, in a quintessential example of cooperation, have worked together to take another armed criminal off our streets. The word should now be out to the criminal element: Commit a crime with a gun, and state, local and federal law enforcement will work together to take a threat to the community off of the street.”

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